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trophic activity, when lands have been high, epicontinental seas small, and marine currents largely confined within deep ocean basins, sedimentation has been dominant. But during periods of diastrophic inactivity, when lands have been low, epicontinental seas extensive, and marine currents active on shallows and straits, sedimentation has failed in consequence of non-deposition or marine scour in appropriate situations.

7. The criteria of correlation are both physical and organic. The physical facts are basal. The organic forms, though endowed with evolutionary energy, are dependent and sequential. Any ultimate classification of the earth's history must be founded upon all the phenomena, interpreted through their relations in the chain of cause and effect from diastrophism to life.

BAILEY WILLIS

#### *A NATIONAL BUREAU OF SEISMOLOGY*

AT its last annual meeting, the American Philosophical Society showed its interest in the scientific investigation of earthquakes by devoting an entire session to their consideration. At the close of the session the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, Earthquakes have been the cause of great loss of life and property within the territory of the United States and its possessions, as well as in other countries, and

WHEREAS, It is only through the scientific investigation of the phenomena that there is hope of discovering the laws which govern them, so as to predict their occurrence and to reduce the danger to life and property, and

WHEREAS, Such investigations can be successfully conducted only with the support of the general government, be it, therefore,

*Resolved*, That this society urge upon congress the establishment of a national Bureau of Seismology, and suggest that this bureau be organized under the Smithsonian Institution with the active cooperation of the other scientific departments of the government and that this bureau be charged with the following duties:

- a. The collection of seismological data.
- b. The establishment of observing stations.
- c. The organization of an expeditionary corps for the investigation of special earthquakes and volcanic eruptions in any part of the world.

d. The study and investigation of special earthquake regions within the national domain. And

*Resolved*, That copies of these resolutions be transmitted to the President, to the President of the Senate, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and to the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution.

Through the active interest of Dr. W. W. Keen, the president of the society, these resolutions were brought favorably to the attention of congress, and were in the House of Representatives referred to the Committee on Library, of which Honorable Samuel W. McCall, of Massachusetts, is chairman. The other members of the committee are E. L. Hamilton, of Michigan; Charles H. Burke, of South Dakota; William H. Howard, of Georgia, and Charles R. Thomas, of North Carolina.

Mr. McCall has already shown his appreciation of the importance of the subject, and it is hoped that readers of SCIENCE will lose no opportunity to urge upon their senators and representatives in congress the need of establishing such a bureau as is proposed, and to set forth the backward position of our government in this important matter as compared with foreign countries, though otherwise generously disposed towards scientific investigation.

There is already some danger that the matter may be disposed of through a small appropriation to some existing bureau, where the lack of special interest in the subject would soon result in the investigations being crowded out to make way for others which appeal more directly to the administration of the bureau.

Wm. H. HOBBS

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

#### *SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS*

THE national testimonial to Commander Robert Peary at the Metropolitan Opera House on February 8 was most enthusiastic, the house being completely filled. Governor